

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 VO-03 SCA-01

/090 W

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R 050845Z SEP 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 176

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1706

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK'S ENTOURAGE ATTEMPTING TO DEPART PEKING

1. WITH SIHANOUK NOW EXPECTED TO LEAVE PEKING ON SEPTEMBER 9 OR 10 FOR PHNOM PENH, MOST MEMBERS OF HIS PEKING ENTOURAGE--NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS--ARE URGENTLY ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN VISAS TO THIRD COUNTRIES RATHER THAN RETURN TO CAMBODIA. ACCORDING TO STORIES HERE SOURCED TO VARIOUS CAMBODIANS, SIHANOUK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE WITH HIM TO CAMBODIA ONLY HIS WIFE, HIS SONS FORMERLY RESIDENT IN MOSCOW AND PRAGUE, PENN NOUTH AND HIS WIFE, AND POSSIBLY ANOTHER TWO OR THREE CLOSE AIDES. AF FEW OTHER OLDER MEMBERS OF THE ENTOURAGE WITHOUT FAMILY TIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO AGREED TO

RETURN.

2. SIHANOUK HAS REPORTEDLY TOLD THE REST OF HIS PEOPLE TO LEAVE PEKING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHILE HE STILL IS ABLE  
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TO GIVE THEM SOME PROTECTION. MOST OF SIHANOUK'S FOLLOWERS--  
INCLUDING CHEF DE CABINET PUNG PENG CHENG--HAVE APPLIED  
FOR FRENCH VISAS. A FEW OTHERS HAVE APPLIED TO GO TO  
OTHERCOUNTRIES IN EUROPE, TO CANADA AND TO AUSTRALIA.  
BRITISH HAVE TOLD US THAT ONE OF THEM HAS EXPRESSED AN  
INTEREST IN GOING TO HONG KONG AND PERHAPS ULTIMATELY TO  
THE UNITED STATES.

3. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, NO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE THUS  
FAR RECEIVED CHINESE PERMISSION TO LEAVE PEKING. THE CHINESE HAVE  
REFUSED TO GRANT EXIT VISAS TO ALLOW THEM TO GO WITHOUT  
FIRST RECEIVING PERMISSION FROM THE KHMER ROUGE. THE  
CHINESE ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT THIS IS AN INTERNAL CAMBODIAN  
AFFAIR AND A MATTER FOR THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE.  
A KHMER ROUGE DECISION IS EXPECTED ON THE GROUP'S FATE  
IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. COMMENT: THE DISMANTLING OF PRINCE SIHANOUK'S COURT-  
IN-EXILE IS A PATHETIC SPECTACLE WITH HIS ENTOURAGE ATTEMPTING  
TO AVOID THE INDIGNITY OF RETURNING TO CAMBODIA TO TILL  
THE LAND FOR THE KHMER ROUGE AND SIHANOUK SEEMINGLY POWER-  
LESS TO HELP THEM. NONE OF THE CAMBODIANS HAVE  
APPLIED AT USLO FOR A VISA, ALTHOUGH SOME MAY  
EVENTUALLY SEEK US VISAS AFTER THEY HAVE MADE IT  
OUT OF CHINA TO THIRD COUNTRIES.  
MEYER

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